

REMARKS

In the non-final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4 and 6-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Aalbersberg (U.S. Patent No. 5,946,678) in view of Stern et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,397,218).

By this Amendment, Applicants amend claim 12 to improve form. Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Claims 1-4 and 6-12 are pending.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected pending claims 1-4 and 6-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Aalbersberg in view of Stern et al. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 1, for example, recites a combination of features of a method performed by a client device for highlighting search terms in web documents distributed over a network. The method includes generating a search query including a search term; receiving a list of one or more links to web documents distributed over the network in response to the search query; receiving selection of one of the links; retrieving a web document corresponding to the selected link from the network; intercepting the web document; and highlighting one or more occurrences of the search term in the intercepted web document.

Neither Aalbersberg nor Stern et al., whether taken alone or in any reasonable combination, discloses or suggests this combination of features. For example, neither Aalbersberg nor Stern et al. discloses or suggests intercepting a web document.

The Examiner admitted that Aalbersberg does not disclose this feature (Office Action, page 3). The Examiner alleged, however, that Stern et al. discloses intercepting a web document

and cited column 2, lines 35-46, of Stern et al. for support (Office Action, page 3). Applicants respectfully disagree.

At column 2, lines 35-46, Stern et al. discloses:

Briefly, according to the invention, a method for searching for data in a data network comprising hyperlinked pages comprising the steps of (1) receiving an initial set of network addresses for pages in the data network; (2) receiving a non-negative integer, N, specifying a chain length; (3) receiving a set of at least one search argument comprising search criteria; and (4) performing a search wherein all pages linked to said initial set of addresses by a chain of distance less than or equal to N are examined for compliance with the search criteria, and all pages meeting such criteria are returned as successful objects of the search.

In this section, Stern et al. discloses steps for searching for data in a data network. Nowhere in this section, or elsewhere, however, does Stern et al. disclose intercepting a web document, corresponding to a selected link, that is retrieved from a network, as recited in claim 1.

If the Examiner persists with this rejection, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner identify which of the numbered steps (1-4) in the section provided above allegedly corresponds to intercepting a web document, as recited in claim 1. Applicants use "intercepting" in accordance with its dictionary definition and none of the steps described in column 2, lines 35-46, of Stern et al. corresponds to "intercepting."

Further, neither Aalbersberg nor Stern et al., whether taken alone or in any reasonable combination, discloses or suggests highlighting one or more occurrences of a search term in the intercepted web document, as also recited in claim 1. Because neither Aalbersberg nor Stern et al. discloses or suggests intercepting a web document, neither reference can be relied upon for disclosing highlighting one or more occurrences of a search term in the intercepted web document.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable over Aalbersberg and Stern et al., whether taken alone or in any reasonable combination. Claims 2-4 and 6 depend from claim 1 and are, therefore, patentable over Aalbersberg and Stern et al. for at least the reasons given with regard to claim 1.

Independent claim 7 recites a combination of features of a system for highlighting search terms in documents remotely distributed over a network to aid in the determination of relevance of the documents. The system includes means for generating a search query including one or more search terms; means for receiving a list of one or more references to documents in the network in response to the search query; means for highlighting one or more occurrences of the one or more search terms in the list of one or more references; means for receiving selection of one of the one or more references; means for retrieving a document corresponding to the selected reference; and means for highlighting the one or more search terms in the retrieved document.

Neither Aalbersberg nor Stern et al., whether taken alone or in any reasonable combination, discloses or suggests this combination of features. For example, neither Aalbersberg nor Stern et al. discloses or suggests means for highlighting one or more occurrences of the one or more search terms in the list of one or more references.

The Examiner alleged that Aalbersberg discloses highlighting one or more occurrences of the search term in the list of one or more references and cited column 8, lines 21-25, of Aalbersberg for support (Office Action, page 3). Applicants disagree.

At column 7, line 11, through column 8, line 25, Aalbersberg discloses a list of steps that describe the manner in which a search query is performed. At step 10, Aalbersberg discloses that a list of result items are presented to a user in a results window (col. 7, line 61 - col. 8, line 17).

Aalbersberg illustrates this results window in Fig. 4. As evident from Fig. 4, Aalbersberg does not disclose highlighting any terms in the list of result items in any manner. The disclosure of Stern et al. provides nothing to cure these deficiencies in the disclosure of Aalbersberg.

At step 12, which the Examiner identified, Aalbersberg discloses coloring document words that match a query term in a full text of the document (col. 8, lines 21-25). This is quite different from highlighting one or more occurrences of the one or more search terms in the list of one or more references, as recited in claim 7.

If the Examiner persists with this rejection of claim 7, Applicants request that the Examiner identify where in the disclosure of Aalbersberg or Stern et al. the feature of highlighting one or more occurrences of the one or more search terms in the list of one or more references is disclosed.

For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that claim 7 is patentable over Aalbersberg and Stern et al., whether taken alone or in any reasonable combination.

Independent claims 8-10 recite features similar to features described above with regard to claim 1. Claims 8-10 are, therefore, patentable over Aalbersberg and Stern et al., whether taken alone or in any reasonable combination, for reasons similar to those given with regard to claim 1.

Claims 8-10 are also patentable for reasons of their own.

For example, claim 10 recites a combination of features of a computer-readable medium that stores instructions executable by at least one processor. The computer-readable medium includes a browser configured to generate a search query that includes a search term, receive a list of one or more references to documents distributed over a network in response to the search query, receive selection of one or more of the references, and retrieve one or more documents

corresponding to the selected one or more references; and a browser assistant configured to intercept the one or more documents, highlight the search term in the one or more documents, and present the one or more documents, with the highlighted search term, to a user.

Neither Aalbersberg nor Stern et al., whether taken alone or in any reasonable combination, discloses or suggests this combination of features. For example, neither Aalbersberg nor Stern et al. discloses or suggests a browser assistant that intercepts one or more documents, highlights the search term in the one or more documents, and presents the one or more documents, with the highlighted search term, to a user. The Examiner did not address the browser assistant feature, but alleged simply that claim 10 is similar in scope to other claims (Office Action, page 10). The Examiner, therefore, did not establish a prima facie case of obviousness with regard to claim 10.

For at least these additional reasons, Applicants submit that claim 10 is patentable over Aalbersberg and Stern et al., whether taken alone or in any reasonable combination. Claim 11 depends from claim 10 and is, therefore, patentable over Aalbersberg and Stern et al. for at least the reasons given with regard to claim 10.

Independent claim 12 recites a combination of features of a web browser. The web browser includes instructions for obtaining a search term; instructions for generating a search query from the search term; instructions for obtaining a list of references to documents distributed over a network using the search query, the references including links to the documents and textual descriptions of the links; instructions for highlighting occurrences of the search term in the list of references; instructions for retrieving a document corresponding to one

of the references; instructions for highlighting each occurrence of the search term in the retrieved document; and instructions for displaying the highlighted document to a user.

Neither Aalbersberg nor Stern et al., whether taken alone or in any reasonable combination, discloses or suggests this combination of features. For example, neither Aalbersberg nor Stern et al. discloses or suggests instructions for obtaining a list of references to documents distributed over a network using the search query, where the references include links to the documents and textual descriptions of the links. The Examiner did not address the feature that the references include links to documents and textual descriptions of the links, as recited in claim 12.

Further, neither Aalbersberg nor Stern et al. discloses or suggests highlighting occurrences of the search term in the list of references. As explained above with regard to claim 7, Aalbersberg does not disclose highlighting any terms in the list of result items in any manner. Stern et al. does not disclose the act of highlighting.

For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that claim 12 is patentable over Aalbersberg and Stern et al., whether taken alone or in any reasonable combination.

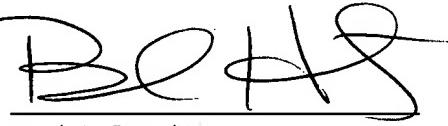
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration of the application and the timely allowance of pending claims 1-4 and 6-12.

PATENT
Application Serial No. 09/734,882
Docket No. 0026-0010

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 35 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1070 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: May 24, 2004

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